

**April 13, 2022
Town of Lyme
Regular Monthly Meeting 6:30 P.M.**

Call to Order:

Supervisor Countryman called the regular monthly meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. opening the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Those present included Supervisor Countryman, Deputy Supervisor Bourquin, Councilmember Gosier, Councilmember Farrell, Councilmember Villa, Town Clerk Ariana Henderson, Legislator William Johnson, Tina Fahringer, Mick Lehman (BCA Engineer) and McKenzie Lehman (BCA Engineer).

Privilege of the Floor

Legislator William Johnson: Mr. Johnson reported that the County settled two labor contracts. They are working on a Pilot with a solar company for the Watertown Airport. The meeting for the funding for the YMCA will be held in May. NYS Sales tax has increased by 12% from last year. The County is also discussing reducing sales tax on gas. They will have to pass a local law but they are waiting to see what neighboring Counties do.

McKenzie Lehman Bernier and Carr: Ms. Lehman updated the board on several projects. The Veteran's Memorial Park is waiting on a bond resolution. Attorney Joseph Russell was on vacation but they will meet hopefully next week. The Three Mile Bay Storage Tank Painting can move forward once the Town signs the award contracts. The Board will need to choose a water tower paint color. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin asked if painting the water tower a darker color would help with ice buildup in the winter. Mick Lehman responded that it would but it would also very warm in the summer. This is why lighter colors are generally the choice. Ms. Lehman also presented the board with the engineer report for the Water District #2 extension. The board also needs to declare a negative declaration for Part 2 and 3 of the Sally Port Project SEQR which is for the entire project including the water line.

Resolution 2022-57: Councilmember Villa made the motion to declare a negative declaration for Part 2 and 3 of the Sally Port View SEQR form; Councilmember Gosier seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Supervisor's Report

Resolution 2022-58: Councilmember Villa made the motion to approve the March Supervisor's Monthly Financial report; Councilmember Gosier seconded the motion; all were in favor; motion carried.

Highway Superintendent's Report

There was no highway report. Supervisor Countryman stated that the Back Hoe was fixed and back to being used at the Transfer Site.

Clerk's Report

Monthly Receipts were as follow: Total Local Shares Remitted: \$12, 814.60; Total State County & Local Revenues: \$12, 861.10 Total Non – Local Revenues: \$46.50

Audit of the Bills (Abstracts #7 & #8)

Resolution 2022-59: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to approve Abstract #7 in the amount of \$1,030.00; seconded by Councilmember Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Resolution 2022-60: Councilmember Villa made the motion to approve Abstract #8 in the amount of \$149,928.79 which includes an ambulance payment and all of the non-profit appropriations; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Approval of the Minutes

Resolution 2022-61: Councilmember Villa made a motion to approve March 3, 2022 Bid Opening Minutes and March 9, 2022 Regular Minutes; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Committee Reports

Assessor's Report: Marsha emailed the following report for the month of March:

**Town of Lyme
Office of Assessment
Monthly Report
April 13, 2022**

Tentative Roll

We have completed our Tentative Roll and are in the process of balancing with the County. Change letters will be going out about May 1st. Grievance Day will be held Tuesday, May 24th from 12:00 Noon until 8:00 PM. Property owners who would like to grieve their assessment are encouraged to make an appointment by calling 315-649-2387.

Solar Farm Assessment

As you know, there will be another meeting to address the assessments for the parcels included in the Solar Farm. I have a deadline of April 15th to place assessments on the parcels, so I have put the assessments that Paul provided and the exemptions they have submitted. If some other agreement is reached, we can do a stipulation to be submitted to the Board of Assessment Review.

Municipal Water Board Report:

Marsha emailed the following report for the month of March.

**Town of Lyme
Municipal Water Board
Monthly Report
April 13 , 2022**

Lance Project

The Lance's have applied to change the scope of their project. In 2015, the Town Board approved to extend Water District # 2 to include their development. At that time, the project included 5 parcels within the development. They have now applied to increase the number of parcels to include 28 parcels. They have submitted the application, along with a \$2,500 retainer to be used for expenses incurred by the town, (legal fees, engineering fees, etc. Gregor is working with their engineer's. The project also has to be approved by the Health Dept., DANC and the Village of Cape Vincent. Once all the paperwork is approved, we will submit it to the Town Board for final approval.

Sally Port Project (Bennett)

We have received the 5 copies of the map and engineer's report for this project. They have submitted their application, along with the \$5,000 retainer required for this project. They have applied to have their land included in Water District #2. Gregor is reviewing their report and is in the process of getting approvals from the various agencies. Once everything is in order, we will submit to the Town Board for final approval.

Rt 12E Project

Gregor will be submitting paperwork to the Water Board at our April meeting. It may be possible to apply for an extension of Water District #2, which might possibly include refinancing Water District #2 to make this project possible. The 12E project would include all the property from Swamp Rd where Water District #2 ends to the last house on 12E before the Town of Lyme ends. It might possible include a part of Swamp Rd. and Merchant Rd.

Supervisor Countryman met with CEO Jim Millington and Fire Chief Justin Bourquin about the Sally Port Project. They discussed if there will be enough water flow for their sprinkler system.

Planning Board:

There was no questions on the Planning Board Minutes. Supervisor Countryman stated that Chairman Schweitzer did an excellent job running the meeting last month.

Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA):

There was no questions on the ZBA minutes.

Youth Commission:

There were no questions on the minutes. Softball, baseball and T-Ball season is going to start soon.

ZEO/CEO Report:

There was no questions on the BAS report emailed by Clerk Henderson. Councilmember Villa stated that there was no value to the report received from the CEO. The report listed no names only phone numbers. Supervisor Countryman stated that Jim Millington reported an issue with our server preventing him from submitting his annual NYS codes report. Councilmember Villa reminded the Board that the Zoning Officer should be addressing the signs on telephone poles in our Town. Several trailers were never removed off properties over the winter. He is frustrated with the lack of enforcement with our laws. There is also a sign on County Route 57 that most likely did not get a permit just past the transfer site.

TMB Cemetery:

Councilmember Gosier stated when she took the mowing companies to look at the cemetery, four to six monuments are leaning very badly. The older monuments never received new foundations. The project Harry Wilson was scheduled to do never was complete because he was lacking information from Councilmember Gosier. She would like to postpone this project and use the money in the savings to replace the leaning monuments foundations instead. There should be enough money to complete the work. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin stated that we already approved spending that money. He also thought Harry Wilson didn't complete the work because he didn't have time. Councilmember Gosier stated he did the majority of the work and the work that wasn't complete was because of the lack of information for the stones. Councilmember Villa stated that we should get quotes from multiple companies. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin agreed and stated we could have the bids back for the May Meeting.

Cape Vincent Ambulance:

Supervisor Countryman emailed the minutes from the last meeting. The old Three Mile Bay Ambulance is being stationed at the Chaumont Fire Hall. The Cape Ambulance will share the expense with Chaumont Fire Hall to install a shower and space for the ambulance crew. The Cape Ambulance Board requested there check from the Town be directly deposited into their account at Watertown Savings bank if possible. Councilmember Villa stated that they announced new funding for ambulance services.

Old Business:

BAR Resignation:

Resolution 2022-62: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to accept Derryl Johnston resignation from the Board of Assessment Review; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

BAR Appointments:

Supervisor Countryman stated that there are currently 4 members on the Board of Assessment Review. There are two people who may have to recuse themselves on specific grievances. That will leave them with only 2 members to vote. Judi Bates volunteered to take the appropriate training and serve on the board.

Resolution 2022-63: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to appoint Judi Bates to the Board of Assessment Review Board to fill Derryl Johnston's term; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Riverside Solar Road Use Agreement:

Deputy Supervisor Bourquin said that his gripe about the agreement was that he didn't want the Solar Construction vehicles using the Morris Tract Horse Creek Bridge. Eric Will from Riverside Solar agreed that they would not use the bridge. Deputy Supervisor Bourquin also did not like the statement in the agreement that listed the maps would be filed at a later date. Steve Le Ferve and Attorney Joseph Russell approved the agreement.

Resolution 2022-64: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to approve the Riverside Solar Road Use Agreement with the provision that they do not use the Morris Tract Road Horse Creek Bridge; seconded by Councilmember Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

New Business:

Planning Board Alternate Position:

The Town of Lyme Planning Board recommended Patrick Hathaway to be appointed by the Town Board for Planning Board Alternate.

Resolution 2022-65: Deputy Supervisor Bourquin made the motion to appoint Patrick Hathaway to the Planning Board Alternate Position; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Standard Work Day Resolution:

Town Clerk Henderson requested the Board approve the Standard Work Day Resolution. She explained it has to be reported to NYS to prove that enough hours are being worked to collect retirement in the future.

Resolution 2022-66: Councilmember Gosier made a motion to establish 7 hours as the standard work day for the Town Clerk, 8 hours as the standard work day for the Highway Superintendent and 6 hours as the standard work day for Town Councilmembers; its employees and will report days to the New York State and Local Employees Retirement System based on the time keeping system or the record of activities maintained and submitted by these members to the clerk of this body; seconded by Councilwoman Villa; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Standard Work Day and Reporting Resolution:

Resolution 2022-67: Councilwoman Villa made a motion to establish the following standard work days for these titles and will report the officials to New York State and Local Retirement System based on their record of activities; seconded by Councilman Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Mowing Bids:

Three Mile Bay Cemetery Bids
Rocky's Lakeside Lawn Care- \$550.00 per visit
Lawn Barbers- \$500.00 per visit

Resolution 2022-68: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to accept the lowest bid from Lawn Barbers' for \$500.00 per visit to mow and trim the Three Mile Bay Cemetery; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Ball Fields and Abandon Cemeteries Bids
JW Northeast Enterprises LLC- \$19,440.00
Lawn Barbers- \$18,500.00
Rocky's Lakeside Lawn Care- \$18,500.00

Resolution 2022-69: Councilmember Farrell made the motion to accept Rocky's Lakeside Lawn Care's bid for \$18,500.00 to mow and trim the Ball Fields and Abandon Cemeteries from past precedent; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Dog Report:

Councilmember Villa stated after reading the dog report there is a dog that continues to be a problem for the Town. The owner of the dog should be assessed for the cost of our dog control and letting their animal get loose multiple times. Supervisor Countryman said there is also another issue in the Town that a resident has multiple dogs in a home and large animals that our Animal Control Officer is watching over closely.

ARPA Application Discussion:

Supervisor Countryman reported that the Town finally had success logging on to the ARPA reporting site. Cathy Satterley is retiring at the end of April and Janelle will be replacing her. Janelle works for Bowers and Company and also offered to help with the ARPA funds reporting for an additional fee. Supervisor Countryman spoke with Judy Rusho (Director of the Town of Lyme Food Pantry) about possibly giving the food pantry some of the ARPA funds from the Town.

Councilmember Gosier stated that the Three Mile Bay Fire Hall needs a new roof and the Chaumont Fire Department needs a new truck. The Fire Departments are always struggling and it benefits our entire Town. Councilmember Villa also suggested the new Town ambulance service. Legislator Johnson gave the Board the information that the County decided to use the ARPA funds on including the sewer line to the Watertown Airport, Child Care, and more. He will send us the information by email.

Online Privilege of the Floor

There was no online privilege of the floor.

Privilege of the Floor

There was no privilege of the floor.

Executive Session

Resolution 2022-70: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to enter Executive Session at 8:05 p.m.; seconded by Deputy Supervisor Bourquin; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Return to Open Meeting

Resolution 2022-71: Councilmember Gosier made the motion to enter Open Meeting at 8:47 p.m.; seconded by Councilmember Farrell; all were in favor and the motion was carried.

Adjournment

Resolution 2022-72: Councilmember Farrell a made the motion to adjourn; seconded by Councilmember Gosier; all were in favor and the motion was carried; meeting was adjourned at 8:48 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Ariana Henderson

Ariana Henderson
Town Clerk